

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 01453 171231Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SS-15 NSC-05 PM-03 EURE-00 SSO-00

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O P 171210Z MAR 75 ZFF-4

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0664

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1453

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLAS DEC 31, 1975

TAGS: OREP, XG

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO EUROPE

FOR ASST SECDEF (ISA) ELLSWORTH FROM AMBASSADOR BRUCE

REF: STATE 57872

1. I AM MOST CONCERNED THAT BELGIAN PORTION OF CONGRESSIONAL VISIT ACCORDING TO REVISED SCHEDULE WILL PROVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND EMBARRASSING.

2. MONDAY MARCH 31 IS A NATO HOLIDAY. MOST NATO OFFICIALS (INCLUDING SYG LUNS) AND ALLIED AMBASSADORS WILL BE AT HOME OR OUT OF TOWN AS OF NOON ON MARCH 28. THERE WILL BE LITTLE CHANCE OF ARRANGING APPOINTMENTS OR MEETINGS OF ANY VALUE. AN EMPTY NATO HEADQUARTERS WOULD FURTHER CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEGATIVE IMPRESSION WHICH IS ALL WE COULD EXPECT UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. EVEN IF BRUSSELS STOP IS BILLED AS A BREAK IN OTHERWISE MEANINGFUL SCHEDULE, CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS AND WIVES WILL FIND LITTLE OF INTEREST WITH SHOPS AND MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY, A BELGIAN HOLIDAY.

3. I WANT TO DO ALL IN MY POWER TO PROVIDE VISITORS WITH WORTHWHILE AGENDA HERE. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE PRESENT SCHEDULE CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 01453 171231Z

STACKS CARDS AGAINST A PRODUCTIVE VISIT AND I STRONGLY RECOMMEND BRUSSELS PORTION EITHER BE RESCHEDULED TO A DATE AS FAR FROM EASTER WEEKEND AS POSSIBLE OR CANCELED.BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO01453
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 ADS DECLAS DEC 31, 1975
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750398/abbrziub.tel
Line Count: 56
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 57872
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO EUROPE
TAGS: OREP, XG
To: SECDEF INFO STATE
BRUSSELS
USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006